**LaGrange County Drainage Board Minutes**

 **Commissioner’s Room – 1st Floor County Office Building**

A regular session of the LaGrange County Drainage Board was called to order by Ben Taylor at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 7th, 2025.

**Those Present Were:**

Ben Taylor, Chair; Todd Perkins, Vice Chair; Kevin Myers, Member; Member; Zachary Young, Member; Zach Holsinger, County Surveyor; Samantha Yoder, Secretary; Cory Stewart, Deputy Surveyor; Tony Manns, County Attorney; Robbie Miller, Planning/Zoning; Matt Meersman, St. Joe River City Basin; Cody Banks, Troyer Group/Surf Internet Rep., Emma Camplatana, Troyer Group/Surf Internet Rep., Phil Cox, Rep., Tim Ehlerding, Abonmarche Rep., Michael Ware, Rep., Ian Fisher, Rep., Sam Perkins, Landowner

**Agenda:**

Myers moved to accept the agenda with flexibility. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes:**

Perkins motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Troyer Group/Surf Internet. Holsinger presented an aerial of the two locations to be encroached on. Representatives were present for questions. The Board discussed. Perkins made a motion to approve the right-of-way application. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented the continuation application to encroach in the right-of-way for Abonmarche Consulting/First State Bank. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location. Holsinger stated that there is a portion of the tile located on this parcel of land that is being replaced and asked the Board to consider having the landowner contribute to the project for the portion on their parcel. Time Ehlerding was present for questions. Mr. Ehlerding stated that he was made aware of the tile project prior to the meeting and has already spoken with the landowner who is willing to contribute to the project. The Board discussed. Perkins made a motion to approve the application as presented with the stipulation that the landowner sign an agreement to be responsible for the maintenance of the regulated portions of tile/open ditch on their parcel and that they pay the legal fees for having the agreement drawn up. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for James Swift/NIPSCO. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location. The Board discussed. Young made a motion to approve the application to encroach. Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Justin Johnson/NIPSCO. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location. The Board discussed. Young made a motion to approve the application as presented. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an application to encroach in the right-of-way for Sam Perkins. Holsinger presented an aerial of the location and stated that he doesn’t have an issue with the replacement of the garage because the tile is new. Taylor abstained from the discussion and vote. The Board discussed. Young made a motion to approve the application as presented. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented an issue on the #72 Baker tile replacement. Holsinger stated that we have a landowner that said he didn’t want the tile in the same location and asked to have it moved to the East. Holsinger said that they went out and took gps shots to put the tile back in the same place and remove the trees that are in the way. After all this was completed, the landowner reached back out and stated that he wants the tile to be moved to the East. Holsinger asked the Board for direction on what they would like him to do because the landowner keeps changing his mind on what he’d like to see done through his parcel. The Board discussed and the attorney gave his opinion. The Board directed that a certified letter be sent to the landowner stating the work has been bid out to replace the tile in the same location and remove the trees, but if he’d like it to be moved to the East he needs to respond to the letter, in writing, within 10 days. Also, that if no response if received then we will continue with the original plan of tree removal and keeping tile in the same place. Manns, county attorney, stated that he will assist with writing the letter.

Holsinger presented an invoice from Castle Property Services for #87 Fly Creek in the amount of $26,800.00. Holsinger stated that there ended up being more work that needed to be done than initially thought. Perkins made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Holsinger presented a request for a new drain establishment. Holsinger stated that he believes this is needed because it is causing damage to the road and there is a drainage issue in this area. The Board discussed. Manns stated that we are missing a number of things in order to move forward with this request. Manns suggested that Holsinger deny the current petition for establishment until all criteria are met. The Board agreed with Manns and asked Holsinger to obtain the rest of information needed and then bring everything back once he has it.

Yoder requested that the Board allow Holsinger to approve applications that come in for bridge replacements or repairs that are done in our drainage right-of-way. The Board discussed. Myers made a motion to allow Holsinger to approve applications on county structures subject to Manns verifying that they Board can delegate this approval to Holsinger. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Holsinger brought up the Shipshewana Flea Market and the letter that we are supposed to be sending. Holsinger asked that we extend the deadline for them to comply with our requests because the letter hasn’t been completed yet. Holsinger stated that he looked into the baskets and M&R Welding can make them for $600-800 each and he would go out and get an exact count of how many are needed. Young made a motion to extend the deadline for getting and installing the baskets until August 1, 2025. Myers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Letter to be mailed in the next 10 days and Manns will assist with the letter.

Holsinger let the Board know that since the last meeting we have not heard anything from RECM or the Council in regards to the Hane/Storey and payments from either. Myers said that the Council is supposed to discuss that at their next meeting, so we will wait and see what they say.

**Other Business:**

Next meeting date is Wednesday, July 9th at 8:30 AM.

**Adjourn:**

Perkins motioned to close the drainage board meeting for Wednesday, June 4th, 2025, at 9:15 A.M. Young seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Benjamin Taylor, Chair

Todd Perkins, Vice Chair

Kevin Myers, Member

Vacant Seat, Member

Zachary Young, Member